



RECEIVED

By City Clerk at 9:37 am, 1/5/22

# Amesbury

## Traffic and Transportation Committee

### Meeting Minutes

Date: October 18, 2021

Start: 7:07 PM Virtual Meeting

Attendees: Christopher Falcos, Robert Desmarais, Christine Miller, Matt Einson. Owen Corcoran and James Nolan were absent.

- Minutes from the previous meeting were approved (Chris motion to approve, Lauren 2<sup>nd</sup>, Roll call to approve: Christine-yes, Rob-yes, Chris-yes, Lauren-yes, Matt-yes). Approved.

### Old Business

- Changes to short-term parking downtown, outdoor seating and 15 minute parking spaces by Angela Cleveland.
  - Angela was not in attendance. Nothing new to item. Motion to continue: Rob, Chris 2<sup>nd</sup>. Roll call to approve: Christine-yes, Rob-yes, Chris-yes, Lauren-yes, Matt-yes. Motion passes.
- Request for a 4-Way Stop at the intersection of Pond Street and High Street by Gage Foley.
  - Item was previously continued until the November meeting.
- Abutter notices by Rob Desmarais.
  - Rob stated that there was nothing to report. This will be continued until next meeting. Motion to continue: Lauren, Chris 2<sup>nd</sup>. Roll call to approve: Christine-yes, Rob-yes, Chris-yes, Lauren-yes, Matt-yes. Motion passes.
- Request for "Reduce Speed" signage on Old Merrill Street by Dennis Saraiva.
  - Matt stated that this was brought up at the last meeting and the only question was when the signs were going to be put up. Matt asked Rob if he had any update on that. Rob stated the signs were up. Matt asked for a motion to remove the item from the agenda. Motion by Rob, Chris 2<sup>nd</sup>. Roll call to approve: Christine-yes, Rob-yes, Chris-yes, Lauren-yes, Matt-yes. Motion passes.
- Request for Speed Bumps on Thompson Street by Barbara Pouliot.
  - Barbara was not in attendance. Matt stated Mrs. Pouliot had not attended any of several meetings where this was placed on the agenda asked for a motion to

remove the item. Motion to remove by Chris, Christine 2<sup>nd</sup>. Roll call vote: Christine-yes, Rob-yes, Christopher-yes, Lauren-yes, Matt-yes. Motion passes.

- Request to fix Stop Signs, install Blind Driveway (on Fern Avenue) and install traffic light at Fern Avenue and Market Street by Joanne Sullivan and Sheila Beach.
  - Matt stated that he did not believe that they were in attendance however he did believe that everything that was supposed to be done should be completed, and asked Rob for verification. Rob stated that was correct. Matt asked if there were any questions or concerns regarding the item. There were none. Matt asked for a motion to remove from the agenda. Motion by Chris, Lauren 2<sup>nd</sup>. No discussion. Roll call vote: Christine-yes, Rob-yes, Christopher-yes, Lauren-yes, Matt-yes. Motion passes.

### New Business

- Installation of proper crosswalk signage at the Sparhawk and Whittier Street crosswalk by Michael & Rosemary Doyle.
  - Both Michael and Rosemary Doyle were in attendance. Michael Doyle stated that they live on Hillside Avenue and his son lives on Sparhawk Street. Mr. Doyle continued to say that the crosswalk on Sparhawk Street where Whittier Street crosses has no reflective sign and arrows as do the other crosswalks in town. It is a school bus stop for their two grandchildren, where one crosses the street there to go to the middle school and one takes the bus from there. According to Michael the visibility at that location is poor because of parked cars on the side of Sparhawk Street, and also there is a rise in the road and due to that and the visibility it is not safe. Michael said he has watched children try to cross there and that it is hazardous, as no one wants to stop for pedestrians there, and if a car is traveling south on Sparhawk away from town, they may see the person crossing but if they are heading north on Sparhawk a parked car would hide the child trying to cross the road. Michael stated that there are approximately 12 crosswalks in that area by Rte. 110 near Andyman's to all the way down on Sparhawk to where Main and School Street near the library. All are controlled by both reflective signage and arrows, at the crosswalks, or full traffic lights, with the exception being the Sparhawk-Whittier Street crosswalk of which there is no signage posted and the one at Andyman's. In addition it seems like the crosswalk paint is somewhat faded. The only difference that I have noticed is that at other intersections the poles that the signs are on are put into a nice little grass area. At Sparhawk and Whittier it would have to go into a cement sidewalk, and is not sure if that is part of the reason. So ultimately it is the safety of the children and he believes it can be improved as the others were.
  - Rob then asked to speak on the matter. Rob stated that the DPW will install the signage and he believes that Michael is correct in that the cement sidewalk was most-likely the reason the signs were not installed there, and they probably meant to go back and installed them and never did. Rob stated he will have those installed as soon as possible. At that time Matt wanted to clarify it was the crosswalk going across Sparhawk Street and not Whittier. Michael stated yes the one across Sparhawk. Matt asked Rob if he would make a motion on the item. Rob made the motion that DPW install the crosswalk signs they should have installed before at Sparhawk/Whittier and at Andyman's. The motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by

Chris. No discussion. Roll call vote: Christine-yes, Rob-yes, Christopher-yes, Lauren-yes, Matt-yes. Motion passes.

- No parking on Cedar Street on either side of entrance to parking lot of Buildings #15 and #25 at the Lofts at Clark's Pond-Dotty Peterson.
  - Dotty Peterson was in attendance. Dotty stated that she is on the board for the Clark's Street condominium complex and what they are finding on Cedar Street when we are coming out of the main entrance/exit to the complex, we are finding that cars are parking on either side of that driveway, and really close to the driveway and it makes it difficult for people to turn in and out of the driveway safely. The complex is across from 14 Cedar Street and there is a lot of traffic going in and out of that building as well. So we are finding that it's difficult for a lot of the owners who live at the Lofts at Clark's Pond to exit and enter safely, and what we are asking for is to have 6 feet clear on either side of the driveway. Also there is another apartment building on Poplar Street and a lot of the people are parking on Cedar Street and it is getting rather challenging for the owners at the Lofts. Dotty then pointed out that there were two owners of units at the Lofts who were in attendance for this meeting, Anne Ferguson and Councilor Anthony Rinaldi and wondered if they had anything to add.
  - Anne Ferguson stated that she agreed with Dotty completely and she is just another voice to back her up on what she said. Councilor Rinaldi stated that it sometimes was not that they parked so close to the driveway but sometimes they would actually overlap into the area of the driveway entrance so because they gave some of the tenants back doors to their units on Poplar Street, that is the shortest route to get to their vehicles instead of parking in the parking lot that is designated for that building. Matt brought up Google Maps street view pictures of the area that was being discussed. Matt asked if they wanted No Parking in the area closest to "R" Street, however Dotty stated they just wanted 6 feet on either side. At that time Lauren asked to speak and stated the only issue with that would be that if you push them back towards R Street they cannot park there either because it is within 20 feet of the intersection. Councilor Rinaldi stated that they do anyway as it is now. Lauren stated she understood and we can give them tickets for that but if you push it back 6 feet from the driveway will there even be room for anyone to park there because they may now be within 20 feet of the intersection. Councilor Rinaldi pointed out that they have been doing it for a while now. Lauren said she understood and that she is the one that writes the majority of the parking tickets there, and also pointed out that people also park on the other side of the driveway along Cedar all the way to in front and within the intersection of Poplar Street and she would like to take care of that issue as well at the same time because they keep parking within the intersection and I keep giving them tickets for that. Councilor Rinaldi stated that to be fair, once and a while one of our residents will park there for a short time while going in and out, and he does not understand why because they all have parking spots. Lauren went on to say that we knew this was going to be an issue when the apartments on Poplar Street were being built. Rob stated that it was 66 feet from R Street to that driveway. So if you take 10 feet from the driveway where they are not supposed to park anyway and 20 feet from the intersection, they may be able to get two cars there. Rob asked Matt if he could make a motion, to which Matt agreed. Rob moved to put signage and painting to the regulations to all the intersections and

driveways in this area so both the Lofts, the Poplar Street apartments and Poplar Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Lauren. No discussion. Roll call vote: Christine-yes, Rob-yes, Christopher-yes, Lauren-yes, Matt-yes. Motion passes.

- No parking on east side of “R” Street near 15 Cedar Street by Dotty Peterson.
  - Dotty stated that what they are finding is some people who live at the Lofts are parking along the east side of R Street that people coming down John Street and are trying to turn, especially trucks, it’s very challenging for people to get by. We have also heard a lot of colorful language and beeping going on. Councilor Rinaldi also pointed out that the roadway narrows in that area of R Street and pointed out that last year they had a school bus come down John Street and could not make the corner because someone was parked there and garbage trucks can barely make it through. Dotty also mentioned how delivery trucks such as Amazon, UPS, etc. are also having a hard time getting by. At this time Matt asked what they were looking for in reference to this item. Dotty stated some kind of signage/paint to keep people from parking there. Matt asked if they wanted the entire length of R Street. Councilor Rinaldi stated at least from John Street to the end at Cedar Street. Rob then suggested No Parking on the east side of the street, to which Councilor Rinaldi stated yes. So Matt asked if the motion was to make it no parking on the east side of R Street from John Street to Cedar Street. Matt stated yes. Chris 2<sup>nd</sup>. No discussion. Roll call vote: Christopher-yes, Christine-yes, Rob-yes, Lauren-yes, Matt-yes. Motion passes.
- Scheduled revisit of the No Left Turn analysis Main Street and Mechanic’s Row from April 2021.
  - None of the residents from Mechanics Row were in attendance. Matt briefly outlined that this was originally brought up in July of 2020 and discussed in several meetings. In November we made a decision that we were going to removed 2 parking spaces on Main Street at Mechanics Row (and not the requested 5) and implement a No Left Turn restriction coming out of Mechanics Row. After quite a bit of discussion and feedback from the residents and the Mayor we looked at it again in December and decided we would do this in stages. First we would take away the two parking spots and we would revisit in 90 days (however we waiting approximately 6 months instead) from implementation and determine if the problem had been sufficiently mitigated or if there was still an issue that required further action to include going ahead with the No Left Turn restriction out of Mechanics Row. However no one from Mechanics Row seems to be in attendance, however Ann Ferguson is in attendance and used to live on Mechanics Row and was involved in the original complaint. Anne stated she was involved in the group and she stated the group said they were very happy with the removal of the two parking spaces and they would be unhappy with the No Left Turn restriction. Anne said this was said to her after the residents received the notice regarding the item being on the agenda from Lauren. According to Anne, she has reached out to some of the residents as she is talking to us no one was able to come to the meeting tonight, but she knows through her conversations via email with some residents that they are happy with the status quo right now.
  - Matt stated that his primary concern was that the area was now sufficiently safe and they did bring up this issue that it was and extremely hazardous situation and he wants to know if they are truly satisfied that is now safe. Lauren wanted to add

that since this issue was addressed the City did lower the speed limit as well. Matt stated that he did not feel comfortable dispensing of the issue without someone from the street being in attendance to state their opinion on the matter. Rob agreed and stated especially because before they threatened us with personal liability if anyone got hurt there. Matt asked that it be continued to the next meeting and added that if they really did not want to see the No Left Turn restriction come into play then they need to make every effort to attend the next meeting. Matt asked for a motion to continue to the next meeting. Chris made the motion with Rob 2<sup>nd</sup>. Roll call vote: Rob-yes, Christine-yes, Christopher-yes, Lauren-yes, Matt-yes. Motion passes.

Matt asked for a motion to adjourn. Lauren made the motion with Chris 2<sup>nd</sup>. Roll call vote: Christine-yes, Rob-yes, Christopher-yes, Lauren-yes, Matt-yes. Motion passes.

Next meeting scheduled for November 15, 2021 at 7:00 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 7:41 p.m.